

**CONTACT:**

**RECYCLING BOOSTS BAY STATE ECONOMY**

The more Massachusetts recycles, the more our economy grows. Bay Staters literally throw away millions of dollars worth of recyclable materials each year. And we spend additional hundreds of millions each year in disposal costs.

The Massachusetts paper industry is an example of how recycling benefits our state's economy. Recycling businesses and organizations employ 19,500 people and have an estimated annual payroll of \$557 million. Recycling employs as many people in Massachusetts as child care services, the accounting and bookkeeping sector, or the electric utility industry.

Each year The Newark Group's Massachusetts paperboard plants (Haverhill Paperboard and Newark America Paperboard in Fitchburg) recycle 220,000 tons of loose mixed residential paper. This includes newspaper, magazines, phone books, paper bags, mail and office paper. Another 80,000 tons of cardboard is recycled annually.

The recycled material is used to make hardcover books, game boards, and packaging for a wide variety of consumer goods. Because Massachusetts residents and businesses throw away 1.5 million tons of paper and cardboard each year that could be recycled, the Newark Group and other Massachusetts paper manufacturers buy significant amounts of recyclable paper from other states. If we recycle more here at home, those additional dollars will stay in Massachusetts.

So the next time you go to throw away a plastic bottle, cup, container, or newspaper, think how much better our economy and environment would be if you recycled it instead. Keeping millions of tons of recyclables out of landfills and supplying Bay State businesses with raw materials for their products will help both Massachusetts environment and economy.

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